

809 Center Street, Room 10, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 420-5010 • www.cityofsantacruz.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2020

Contacts:

Ralph Dimarucut (831) 420-5017 Janice Bisgaard, (831) 420-5166

Consider Parks and Greenbelt Areas for Outdoor Exercise Maintain Social Distancing and Avoid Crowding along West Cliff Drive

SANTA CRUZ — Given large numbers of walkers and joggers along West Cliff Drive, the City of Santa Cruz reminds the community to practice social distancing to avoid exposure to the COVID-19 coronavirus in observance of local and state shelter-in-place orders. City greenbelt areas and parks offer many other opportunities for outdoor exercise with open space for safe distancing.

Outdoor exercise is encouraged while following safe distancing guidelines, however, large gatherings are a violation of shelter-in-place orders meant to protect public health. The City is seeking voluntary compliance of these orders although violations are a misdemeanor. At this time, Santa Cruz Police are looking to educate people rather than issue citations.

In consideration of everyone, if the area you want to visit is crowded, consider altering your schedule to when there are fewer people.

"The City of Santa Cruz offers many outdoor exercise locations to maintain health and well-being in compliance with social distancing guidelines," said Parks and Recreation Director Tony Elliot. "Please consider using the rest of our 1,700 acres of parkland across beaches, parks, and open space for walking, jogging and other activities, but not to congregate."

A list of City greenbelt areas and parks can be accessed at <u>Santacruzparksandrec.com</u>. As a reminder, the golf course is closed during this time and unauthorized use of this facility is prohibited.

For more information and updates on the City of Santa Cruz response to COVID-19, visit www.cityofsantacruz.com/coronavirus.